

NET GAINS THE RULE

The Marked Feature in the Trading Were
the Local Traction Companies.

COALERS WERE AGGRESSIVELY STRONG

The Industrial Specialties Generally Show Net Gains of Quite Large Fractions—There Were Vague Rumors of an Intended Dividend on Reading's First Preferred Stock.

New York, Dec. 22.—There was nothing in to-day's stock market to refute the opinion generally held in Wall street that speculation in securities will continue dull until after the first of the year and of the release of some of the funds at present locked up in large financial operations. Sagging prices are generally the accompaniment of such a market, but there was sufficient strength in special stocks, due to special causes to-day to act as a sustaining force on the general list, and net gains are the rule in consequence. The marked features in the trading and the centers of great strength were the local traction companies. The motives for the buying of these stocks were the reports of a business compromise between the Metropolitan and the Third Avenue companies, and a belief that the chances were not good for the success for the underground, rapid transit scheme. Third avenue was benefited to the extent of six points, and Metropolitan Street Railway over two. Manhattan rose three points, but lost a fraction. The Coalers were also aggressively strong and showed gains of between 1 and 2 points, the Reading issues being especially prominent. There were vague rumors of an intended dividend on Reading's first preferred stock, which influenced the trading. The industrial specialties generally show net gains of quite large fractions. The statements of estimated earnings for the last quarter of the year of the several Vanderbilt railroads were viewed unfavorably and acted as something of a drag on the railroad list.

Call loans were made to-day at rates ranging between 3@4 per cent, and there was a further decline in exchange posted rates for both long and short sterling being marked down 1/2, and actual business being done at a decline of 1/4 for cable transfers, and long sterling and of 1/4 for demand sterling. The price for d. and sterling at the time of the gold import movement last September did not fall below 4841. Money was cheaper in Europe and in London at that time than now. The present stiffness in the money market is believed, will be only temporary, and the completion of the operations connected with the Union Pacific settlement and the disbursements incident to the beginning of the year will give relief. For this reason the weakness of exchange has not induced talk of gold imports at New York. Gold is, however, on the way from Australia to San Francisco.

The bond market was comparatively inactive, especially in some of the favorite speculative issues. But prices were well maintained. Total sales, \$1,400,000. United States new 4's coupon declined 1/4 bid.

CLOSING BIDS.

Aitchison 125% prof. 375%
Aitchison, pre. 39% St. Paul 91%
B and O 125% St. Paul, prof. 121%
C & O 81% St. Paul & O 71%
Can. Southern 125% St. Paul & O, prof. 159%
Cent. Pacific 125% St. Paul & M 121%
C and O 125% San Pacific 26%
C and B 161% So. Ry., prof. 221%
C and B & Q 104% So. Ry., prof. 221%
C and C 33% St. Paul & P 161%
C & C and St. L 185% St. Paul & N 23%
pref. 100% U. P. D. and G. 21%
D and H 112% Wabash, prof. 174%
D and H. W. 156% W. and L. E. 2%
D and R. G. 141% W. and L. E. prof. 19%
Eagle & L. N. 125% EXPRESSE CO.
Erie (new) 143% A. T. & S. 19%
F. (new) 1st pre. 385% Amer. E. 115%
F. & W. 105% U. S. Express 33%
G. & W. 135% U. S. Express 111%
Hocking Val. 45% MISCELLANEOUS 29%
Illinois Central 105% 29%
L & W. 16% A. C. O. prof. 74%
L & W. and W. 71% A. S. prof. 18%
L & W. 12% A. S. prof. 18%
L & N. 106% A. T. & S. 8%
M. T. 126% People's Gas 93%
Mich. Central 191% Con. Gas 182%
M. & St. L. 125% C. C. & St. L. 175%
M. & St. L. 1st 251% C. F. & L. 251%
N. Y. Can. & St. L. 105% Putman Palace 122%
1st pref. 65% R. & T. 34%
N. C. and SUL 135% Sugar 133%
2nd and W. 114% T. C. and I. 21%
N. A. G. 212% U. S. pref. 69%
N. P. pref. 58% U. S. R. 69%
O and W. 165% U. S. R. prof. 67%
O and R. 36% W. U. 88%
O. S. 18% Northwestern 129%
Pittsburg 118% N. S. prof. 10%
Reading 23% R. G. and W. 12%
Rock Island 194% R. G. and W. prof. 29%
S. L. and S. F. 75% C. G. W. 15%
T and S. F. 15% L. O. 15%

NEW YORK MONEY MARKET.

New York, Dec. 22.—Money on call stiff at 21@24 per cent.; last loan, 3 per cent.; closed at 21@24 per cent.; prime mercantile paper, 32@34 per cent.; sterling exchange dull and easy, with actual business in bankers' bills at 4842@4843 for demand and at 4812@4813 for sixty days; posted rates, 4821@4832 and 4851@4852; commercial bills, 481; silver certificates, 583@583%; bar silver, 56%; Mexican dollars, 45%; Government bonds, firm; State bonds, dull; railroad bonds, firm.

NEW YORK PROVISION MARKET.

New York, Dec. 22.—Flour, moderate-ly active, closing easy with wheat.

Wheat—Spot, weak; No. 2 red, \$1,005%; Corn—Spot, easy; No. 2, 31% f.o.b. afloat.

Oats—Spot, quiet; No. 2, 27@271/2%; Beef—Firm.

Cut Meats—Steady; shoulders, 59@51/2%; Lard—Steady; Continent, \$5.05.

Pork—Steady.

Butter—Steady; Western creamery, 15@22%; do factory, 12@17%; Elkins, 22%; imitation creamery, 13@18%; State dairy, 13@22%; do creamery, 15@21%.

Cotton Seed Oil—Eastern; prime crude, 15@18%; prime summer, 21@22%; do summer yellow, 21c; butter white, 216%; prime winter, 27c.

Sugar—Strong; fair refining, 3@16%; centrifugal, 96 test, 41@42%; refined sugar, firm.

Spot Coffee—Steady.

CHICAGO GRAIN MARKET.

Chicago, Dec. 22.—It was a holiday market in wheat to-day. The price of May keeping within less than a cent range. Bears had a trifle the better of it, the close showing 14@141/2% decline. December was weaker and declined 1% on the selling of about 250,000 bushels. Corn, oats and provisions were dull but steady, and closed at prices unchanged to a point higher.

The leading futures ranged as follows:

Wheat	Open	High	Clos.
Dec. 22	9914	9954	9874
Jan. 23	9934	9944	9924
May 1	9944	9964	9954
July 1	9954	9964	9954
Oct. 1	9964	9974	9964
Dec. 1	9974	9984	9974
Jan. 1	9984	9994	9984
July 1	9994	9994	9994
Oct. 1	9994	9994	9994
Dec. 1	9994	9994	9994

Market Firm; out of town prices are dependent on the delivery rates to the different points. Local sales are being made as follows: Cut loaf, \$5.72; powdered, \$5.28; granulated, \$5.10; flourers' standard A, \$4.93; American of A, \$4.83; continental, bright, yellow B, \$4.84; California, B, \$4.41; Franklin standard extra C, \$4.35; Keystone extra C, \$4.25; American extra C, 4.17.

MEAT MARKET.

Market Firm; out of town prices are dependent on the delivery rates to the different points. Local sales are being made as follows: Cut loaf, \$5.72; powdered, \$5.28; granulated, \$5.10; flourers' standard A, \$4.93; American of A, \$4.83; continental, bright, yellow B, \$4.84; California, B, \$4.41; Franklin standard extra C, \$4.35; Keystone extra C, \$4.25; American extra C, 4.17.

FRESH FISH.

Croakers, per pound, 2c; taylors, per pound, 3c; pan fish, per pound, 3c; baking fish, per pound, 4c; flounders, per pound, 3c; sheepheads, per pound, \$8.10c; mackerel, per pound, 8c; blue fish, per pound, 8c; speckled trout, per pound, 6c; rock, per pound, 8c; Spanish Mackeral, 10c.

PENNY MARKET.

Farmers' market quiet; fancy, new, 23@24%; strictly prime, 24c; new; prime, 2c; Spanish, 50@55c; low grades shellfish stock, 14@15c.

Hand Picked-Fancy, 4c; extras, 3c; third grade, 21c; No. 1 Spanish shellfish, 6c; No. 1 Virginia, 31c; No. 2 Virginia, 21c; old farmers' goods, 21c@23c; new prime, 21c@24c; new black and damp, 11@12c.

CORN—Dull and lower; spot, 33@40c; month, 33@40c@43c; December, new or old, 33@40c@43c; January, 30@33c; February, 33@36c; March, 33@36c; Southern white and yellow, 29@31c.

COTTON MARKET.

New York, Dec. 22.—To-day's cotton market had all the holiday characteristics, fluctuating very narrowly, the volume of business small and chiefly in the hands of the local element. Opening steady at 1 point decline to 1 point; advance, the subsequent variations worked within the scope of six points. The close was steady at a net gain of 2 to 4 points. The room traders had their interests fairly covered, and are not disposed to add new responsibilities in view of the holidays. This morning's cables were regarded as encouraging to spot sales at Liverpool.

New York, Dec. 22.—Cotton steady; middling, 55c; net receipts, 1218 bales; gins, 2,294 bales; exports to Great Britain, 1,200 bales; to Russia, 215 bales; to Germany, 130 bales; to France, 1,331 bales; middling gulf, 61c; sales, 1,331 bales. Futures closed steady; sales, 122,000 bales; January, 5.76; February, 5.79; March, 5.81; April, 5.89; May, 5.91; June, 5.93; July, 6.02; August, 6.06; September, 6.05; October, 6.08; December, 5.76.

SHIPPING NEWS.

Port of Norfolk and Portsmouth December 22, 1897.

ARRIVED.

Br. stmp. Eddie, —, to load with coal for Havre, by Wm. Lamb & Co. Br. stmp. Erie, Taylor, with coal, to Rotterdam, by Wm. Lamb & Co. Br. stmp. Richard, Greenville, Gill, with coal, to Rotterdam, by Wm. Lamb & Co.

Total To-day: Net receipts, 47,273 bales; exports to Great Britain, 8,628 bales; to France, 26,813 bales; to the Continent, 14,282 bales; stock, 1,311,742 bales.

Consolidated: Net receipts, 262,059 bales; exports to Great Britain, 36,606 bales; to France, 36,838 bales; to the Continent, 78,291 bales.

Total Since September 1st: Net receipts, 5,163,246 bales; exports to Great Britain, 1,623,928 bales; to France, 47,373 bales; to the Continent, 1,323,237 bales.

Br. stmp. Veva, Clark, to Antwerp, by the North American Transport Company, with 8,571 bushels of corn, 1,500 tons of pig iron, 8 cars of persimmon logs, 100 barrels dried apples, 35 cars of oak, 10 cars of pine, 1,888 bales of cotton, 156,800 pounds of lard, 2,000 sacks of bran, 60 barrels corn oil, 140 barrels flour, 4,378 sacks C. S. meal.

SAILED.

Schr. Festina, —, to Charleston, S. C., with coal, by Wm. Lamb & Co. Schr. Mary E. Palmer, —, Boston, with coal.

ABERDEMARLE AND CHESAPEAKE CANAL COMPANY.

NORTHBOUND.

Stmr. Comet, merchandise, from North Carolina to Norfolk. Stmr. F. K. Eccles, towing, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge Venus, lumber, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge Mercury, lumber, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge Orion, lumber, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge Saturn, lumber, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge B. F. Donaldson, lumber, from North Carolina to Philadelphia.

Barge Ira, raft and logs, from North Carolina to G. Johnson Lumber Company.

Stmr. Thomas Newton, merchandise, from North Carolina to Norfolk.

Lighter No. 50, wood, from North Carolina to Norfolk.

SCH. FOSTER JR.

Woman's Best Friend-Dirt's Worst Enemy.

Largest package—greatest economy.
THE N. K. FAIRBANK COMPANY,
Chicago, St. Louis, New York, Boston,
Philadelphia.



TRAVELER'S GUIDE.
SR SOUTHERN Railway Co.
THROUGH WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA, THE "LAND OF THE SKY," between Norfolk and Chattanooga with Punkin Patch, between Atlanta and Chattanooga.

SCHEDULE IN EFFECT NOV. 15, 1897.

9:30 a.m. Norfolk, Ar. 9:30 p.m.

9:50 a.m. Portsmouth Junction 4:55 p.m.

3:45 p.m. Raleigh 11:45 a.m.

4:35 p.m. Durham 10:52 a.m.

5:15 p.m. Burlington 9:38 a.m.

6:45 p.m. Asheville 10:45 a.m.

12:20 p.m. Hot Springs 12:27 p.m.

4:30 p.m. Knoxville 9:38 p.m.

5:00 p.m. Chattanooga 12:29 p.m.

5:10 p.m. Nashville 12:30 p.m.

5:10 p.m. Atlanta Lv. 1:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m. Montgomery 1:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m. Birmingham 1:30 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Mobile 1:30 p.m.

8:10 p.m. New Orleans 7:50 p.m.

7:10 p.m. Memphis Lv. 9:00 p.m.

7:10 p.m. W. L. WINGFIELD, NEW DAY LINE.

N. B. TAYLOR, CHAS. O. HAINES, General Manager.

W. H. GREEN, W. H. GREEN, General Superintendent.

W. A. TURK, General Passenger Agent.

ATLANTIC AND GULF RAILWAY.
Scheduled in effect Oct. 1, 1897.
TRAIN NO. 1—Daily—Leaves Norfolk, 7:45 a.m.; West Norfolk, 9:30 a.m. for Danville and intermediate points, arriving at Danville 5:25 p.m.; intermediate